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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
5 December 1952

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Assassination of Tunisian Nationalist Farhat Hached

Tensions in Tunisia may be expected to rise sharply as a result of the assassination on 4 December of Farhat Hached, Secretary General of the General Federation of Tunisian Labor. Violent demonstrations are likely despite strong security controls imposed by the French Army. A solution of the diplomatic impasse between the Tunisian Bey and the French is postponed indefinitely and United Nations debate on the Tunisian question, which began on the day of the assassination, may now be bitter and prolonged.

In recent months, Hached had become the most important nationalist on the Tunisian scene and the only influential one at liberty.

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Hached had important international connections, particularly through the anti-Communist International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, of which he was a minor official. He also had close connections with American labor leaders.

The assassination was most likely perpetrated by one of two terrorist organizations which have recently sprung up in Tunisia: one made up of French residents, the other of natives. Both have been vigorously anti-foreign and have centered their propaganda attacks on Hached, "the American." Some local nationalists were also jealous of his power and influence. Regardless of the identity of the assassin, it will be impossible to persuade the nationalists that the act was not inspired by the French.

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Document No.	066
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<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 70-2
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